

# Parish of St James with St Matthew, Muswell Hill

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Date: Monday 25 April 2022

Venue: St James Church

Present: Chris Green, Mark Murthen and 49 parishioners

## Annual Meeting of Parishioners

### 1. Opening prayers, worship and word

Chris read Ephesians 3: 17b – 21, and emphasised two themes:

- Power. God is at work in and through his people on a daily basis: it is power *through* weakness not in place of it.
- Love. It is in our relationships with one another that the Gospel is worked out.

### 2. Apologies for absence

Gill Brazier, Jean and David Airey, Paul Mercer, Paul Ellerby, Andrea and Michael Bleakley, Celia Eldridge, Morag Fowler, Sue Rich

### 3. Minutes of the AMP meeting held on Monday 26 April 2021

Approved, with no changes

### 4. Election of Churchwardens

Chris expressed huge thanks to Ian Roberts, whom he described as a remarkable Churchwarden, a solid friend with both a lawyer's eye for detail and the ability to take a wide view of our work. Debbie also expressed her thanks. Ian commented that it had been a massive privilege to serve alongside Alison and Debbie.

Debbie Wright stood again as Churchwarden and Paul Mercer stood for the first time. Both were elected unopposed.

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

### 5. Elections for the PCC and Deanery Synod

Chris began by explaining that PCC members are legally our trustees, and responsible for ensuring our direction is right.

He thanked those who were standing down: May Mak and Patrick Haines. Helen Watts was re-elected and Nigel Young elected onto PCC, and Caroline Streets-Law was re-elected onto Deanery Synod, all unopposed.

### 6. Reports:

#### a. Electoral Roll

Total of April 2022 = 358

Total of Oct 2020 roll = 350  
Removed (Deceased) 1  
Added 9

**b. PCC – see Annual Report and Accounts**

There were two corrections to the report: On page 4, Anna Patrick-Haines should read Anna Williams-Haines.

And there was a typo error on page 24. Under item 4 - Staff and related costs, the figure for Social security costs was erroneously indicated as £113,890 instead of £11,390.

The totals of staff and related costs were all stated correctly. (All previous versions of the financial statements to the auditors, SC, PCC, FinCom referred to the correct amount, subject to rounding errors).

**c. Fabric Report**

Chris Law reported that the Buildings Committee, of which he was Chair, comprised of Gill Brazier (current Vice-Chair but stepping down), Ian Roberts (standing as new Vice-Chair), Louise Spalding, James Lea and Nigel Young, who would be the link to PCC.

Principal work for 2021 was to do with fire safety, and Chris extended his thanks to Ian Roberts for managing this. Various work was done in our properties, including the installation of new boilers in 8 and 67 St James Lane and a new kitchen and improved fire safety measures at the Birchwood Centre.

The Quinquennial inspection had reported that the church was in a good state of repair except for the roof, which was being addressed. It was reported that the gardens were well-maintained, and Chris thanked Viv Roberts and Caroline Streets Law for this.

Repairs to the south aisle roof had been completed in January 2021. It was estimated that Phase 2 of the roof project would cost around £135K, less VAT exemption on Listed Places of Worship. Chris thanked Gill Brazier for her hard work in supervising these projects.

The Quinquennial Report had identified a drainage problem in the Flower Kitchen. A new trench needs to be dug at a cost of around £6,700K and a broken sewer pipe repaired for around £4,800K.

Both 20-year-old boilers in church had failed. A quote had been received for £36K + VAT (reclaimable) for replacing these. A question was raised about installing eco-friendly heat pumps. Ian Roberts would be speaking to a specialist about this, but it was likely to be impractical given that the church was a listed building. A better solution would be to insulate the roof as it was repaired.

**d. Deanery Synod Report (as in Annual Report)**

**e. Finance**

Jonathan Stone reported that we had ended 2021 in a good position financially, but

this would change with staff, roof and boiler costs. He presented slides showing income and expenditure sources.

The budget for 2022 was set in line with actual income from 2021. We need to encourage new members to start giving and current members to increase their standing orders. A question was raised about payment for a curate, and Jonathan confirmed the Diocese pays a curate's stipend but we provide housing. Fund-raising for the roof would resume but with a finite period.

Chris Green thanked Jonathan, John Waters and the Finance Committee for compiling these accounts, and Jonathan extended special thanks to Anand.

The appointment of Lakin Rose as auditor to the parish for the year to 31 December 2022 was approved unanimously.

## **7. Vicar's Report**

Chris Green thanked everyone at St James for their loyalty, support and ministry over the past year: PCC, staff, wardens and church family. He named those staff members who had left, including Phil Mullins who would not be replaced this year but there was a possibility of a curate next Summer. Ellie Lyons had been appointed as the new Head of Community Ministries and she will start in September. Adverts for the roles of Worship Pastor and Head of Operations were live, but many churches were advertising similar positions.

There was steady growth of membership at both the 10:30 service and The Gathering, with one family a week (on average) joining Promiseland. The upcoming pattern is to *reconnect* St James: Newcomers' events, Pastorate Leaders meetings, SHAPE and Growing Spiritually courses and Men's Breakfasts would all facilitate this.

The pattern of two Sunday services would probably continue, partly because of the ratios in Children's Ministry, but this would be re-assessed after the Summer. The online resource would also continue, and sermons were now available as podcasts.

The message from the PCC Away Day had been that the church should be more invitational, and services had become more evangelical to reflect this. The PCC would look again at our values and refresh the direction in which we were heading: this discussion would then be extended to the wider church family. The model was that we should begin with worship, then build one another up and then reach out to the community demonstrating God's love.

A comment was made about the possibility of funding a Choir Director, as the choir was ready formed and willing to participate. Chris Green agreed to look into this.

Ian Roberts expressed his thanks to Carolyn Ritchie and those involved with Safeguarding, for their hard work and commitment.

Thanks were also extended to Viv Roberts for the Saturday lunchtime concerts.

Chris Green replied to a question about a Church Weekend Away, with his hope that this could happen next Autumn, but it was dependent on appointing a Head of Operations.

Another question was raised about interns. Chris confirmed that we have one intern, Keisha, part-time but that funding was not available for more at present.

#### **8. Ministry Reports**

Dave Cornes, Alice Whittaker and Mark Murthen each gave a presentation on their ministry areas.

#### **9. Announcement of election results for 2022**

No election was held

#### **10. Closing prayers and worship**

